April 13, 2020 - Campuswide email

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff:

It is hard to believe that two weeks have now passed since beginning our spring “digital” semester on March 30. While the stories I am hearing about our transition to remote learning are all generally positive, this situation is hardly “business as usual.” No matter the challenges, I am confident that we will continue to approach our work with seriousness and rigor, all while finding new ways to express care and concern for one another.

Running the college virtually has been equally challenging, but you can be assured that the senior staff and COVID-19 Crisis Management Task Force are meeting regularly to address anticipated and unanticipated issues associated with the novel coronavirus pandemic. As you can imagine, because the situation remains very fluid, we are trying to remain flexible as we consider options for the future. Our main desire is to be back together, but the health and safety of everyone of you continues to dictate all we consider.

Please find attached a second update and status report on our efforts to date. As always, please contact me or any of the appropriate members of senior staff or the task force with your questions.

I cannot emphasize enough how much everyone is missed and how very hopeful Susie and I remain for everyone’s health and safety, which is our constant focus. Though separated physically, you remain in our hearts and minds.

My best,

John – P. Roush
Status Report
COVID-19 Crisis Management Task Force

April 13, 2020

This second campus update details the significant activity that remains underway as Centre College responds to the unique challenges presented by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Crisis Management Task Force continues to meet on a regular basis, though no longer daily, as does the senior staff beyond its regular weekly gathering.

The Centre College Board of Trustees was fully briefed on all relevant efforts during its spring meeting, which was held virtually via teleconference the week of March 30 through April 3, and they took important action in support of ongoing efforts.

Board of Trustees

- The spring meeting took place virtually by Zoom videoconference, without the full complement of committees able to meet, though the Board met as a whole during the morning of Friday, April 3.
- The trustees approved a special draw from the endowment to provide for larger financial aid award packages for currently admitted students, as well as resources for those current students whose families may be negatively impacted by the coronavirus.
- The trustees also approved capital budgets to renovate Crounse Hall to create a new student success center, to be called the Learning Commons, and relocate the Center for Teaching and Learning, along with resources to renovate and upgrade a number of residence halls, with a priority on first-year housing.
- With the campus relatively empty, projects will begin soon.
- Tenure and promotion were also granted to a number of current faculty, and the Board also approved the hiring of four new tenure-track faculty.
- A full description of the spring meeting can be found here:
  - https://www.centre.edu/centre-college-board-of-trustees-hold-virtual-spring-meeting/

Commencement

- Given continuing concerns for health and safety, the in-person Commencement ceremony on May 24, 2020, will be postponed, with a later date still to be determined. That said, this year’s graduates will still receive a diploma dated May 24, 2020.

Communication

Members of the senior staff and COVID-19 Crisis Management Task Force continue to monitor unfolding of events through a variety of sources, including:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Centre also receives a daily update from O.J. Oleka, president of the Association of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities (AIKCU), and members of the senior staff have been meeting by teleconference with their AIKCU counterparts.

Campus information is available on the main Centre College website and on the CentreNet portal:

- [https://www.centre.edu/coronavirus/](https://www.centre.edu/coronavirus/)
- [https://www.centre.edu/stay-centred/](https://www.centre.edu/stay-centred/)
- [https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/Campus_Resources/Information_Technology_Services/Covid-19_Resources/](https://centrenet.centre.edu/ICS/Campus_Resources/Information_Technology_Services/Covid-19_Resources/)

**Student Life**

- Since several students were able to travel home safely since the last report, we now have a total of 89 students on campus due to special and unique circumstances, 67 of whom are international students, and they are living in Brockman Commons and Pearl Hall, supported by two Residence Directors and eight Resident Assistants.
- Dining is still being provided by Sodexo in the Campus Center on a take-out basis. Local businesses have been offering a meal on the weekend, with offerings so far including delicious food from Tut’s, Grace Café, and Farmhouse. Chef Miguel has also offered unique menu items throughout the week, such as sushi.
- Students continue to be seen in the Student Health Office on an appointment basis, though numbers are understandably lower at this point. Care is also provided via remote contact when appropriate. Students may call for an appointment at 859-238-5530.
- Centre Counseling encourages all students to reach out for support. Counseling staff have transitioned to offer remote support, including telehealth when licensing permits, and have also started a Facebook page to provide resources and information to students. They have asked faculty and staff to share a picture of healthy self-care with the hashtag #MentalHealthMatters to open up the conversation around mental health and normalize prioritizing self-care.
• Remaining items left in rooms that students do not intend to claim have been gathered. For the last 17 years, this process has been a part of the end-of-year Hope Springs Yard Sale, which takes place in May after students have moved off-campus. In light of the unexpected early move-out, the College has partnered with Bluebird Market, a second-hand store that supports Wilderness Trace Child Development Center, to donate unwanted items left on campus.

Remote Learning and Information Technology Support

• The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) remains committed to assisting faculty and students with whatever tools are needed to help students meet learning goals remotely.
• For the second time in as many weeks, CTL Interim Director Robyn Cutright has sent a thorough and detailed message to faculty, sharing feedback, suggestions, and advice.
• A number of laptop computers were sent out to students via FedEx this past week, and Wi-Fi hotspots will also be made available to those in need. CTL currently has 73 laptops and tablets checked out to faculty, staff, and students so they can work at home, along with many webcams and microphones.
• Campus bandwidth has dropped approximately 15 percent, even with thousands of hours of Zoom conferencing.
• Every effort has been made to assure secure teleconferencing via Zoom (and avoid “Zoombombing”), and additional Zoom Pro accounts have been extended to faculty and staff to support their work. As a result, Zoom Pro users have more than doubled, from less than 50 to 120. During the second week of remote learning, 2,282 Zoom meetings took place, with 299,395 total minutes spent. Since April 1, 7,001 Zoom meetings have occurred at Centre.

Admission

• Numerous efforts remain in the works to transition away from in-person recruitment efforts, including a new virtual reality campus tour and interactive map through the Guidebook app.
• With the approval of the Enrollment Management Committee, Centre will move to test optional for at least the next three recruitment cycles beginning in 2021.
• Thanks to approval from the Board of Trustees to support current recruitment efforts, newly packaged financial aid awards with Trustee Grants were recently sent to some 600 admitted students.
• Deposits are running nearly even with the last two years, though about two-thirds of these have come from Kentucky students, compared to an average 50 percent in previous years.

Study Abroad and Away

• Twelve different programs are currently scheduled for the fall term, with 77 students registered for study in Bhutan, China, Japan, France, Mexico, the UK, and two study-away programs in Washington D.C. and New York City.
• A decision on whether or not to cancel programs will be made as soon as possible.
• If programs are cancelled for the fall term, the Center for Global Citizenship is exploring opportunities to hold some of these programs in the spring and/or offer more options during CentreTerm and in spring 2021.

**Facilities Management**

• After quick work to deep clean Brockman Commons and Pearl Hall for our remaining students, eight additional residence halls have also been fully cleaned.
• Stuart Hall has been made available to several local EMS workers as a community effort to support first providers. Conversations have also taken place with Ephraim McDowell Health, should additional temporary hospital space be needed.
• Given trustee approval, work with contractors is underway to begin renovation of a number of residence halls, with an emphasis on first-year housing. The first such building will be Yerkes Hall, which will include bathroom renovations.
• Additional conversations with contractors and architects have begun to create the College’s new Learning Commons student success center in Crounse Hall.
• Work on all capital projects will begin immediately and continue through summer, with hoped-for completion by fall.
• Hardscape and landscape work on Benefactors Plaza is also underway, a project previously approved and funded.

**Academic Affairs**

• To help navigate the altered experience of being a Centre student, a Centre Cares Reporting Tool has been created for students to share confidentially the challenges being experienced, resources and support needed, and general suggestions, which can be used as often as needed. The confidential form is available via CentreNet:

**Grace Doherty Library**

• Students, faculty, and staff still have access to electronic resources in the library via the library website:
  o  [https://library.centre.edu](https://library.centre.edu).
• Journal articles and eBooks are accessible by logging in with a Centre username and password via the library website. Since journal articles can be sent electronically, interlibrary loan services are still being provided via the library website.
• Physical copies of resources, such as books and films, are not available at this time. However, librarians are happy to search for an electronic version of a text in this area and can also try to locate eBooks and journal articles.
• For those who need assistance or have an issue, please don't hesitate to reach out to librarians at [library@centre.edu](mailto:library@centre.edu).
Business and Finance

- Prorated credits for room and board have all been calculated and applied, and students and parents have been notified.
- Clarity is emerging for what portion of the CARES Act money will be available to Centre College to offset coronavirus-related expenses and losses.
- Additional work is being done to determine what payroll tax credits may be available.
- All of this is helping to offer a clearer picture of the negative financial impact the College will have to address as it moves forward, though much remains uncertain.

Athletics

- Athletics is reviewing its robust summer camp offerings and determining timelines on when final decisions will need to be made on their future.
- Coaches and support staff continue to support their student-athletes remotely in the areas of academic success, emotional adjustment, and finding creative ways to engage with their teams. Many teams are having regular virtual meetings as a means of connection.
- The Athletic Strength and Conditioning Staff continues to create content, via Instagram, for student-athletes (and others) for effective, at-home workouts using regular household items.
- Our Athletic Communications team is honoring our spring student-athlete seniors with profiles on CentreColonels.com as well as via social media. They are also creating video footage of each of our facilities to use in recruitment.
- Coaches continue to work hard in yielding the fall 2020 incoming class, as well as working on the fall 2021 cycle through a variety of traditional, as well as creative, means.
- Looking toward the fall semester, the athletic administration continues monitoring the fluid COVID-19 situation, in part, by keeping up-to-date with the information and recommendations released by the NCAA’s COVID-19 Advisory Panel.

Human Resources and Health Benefits

The Human Resources team has been working to modify the College’s plan document and engage with our third-party administrator to add three additional items for those employees covered in our health insurance plans.

- Telehealth (beyond LiveHealth Online)
  - Individuals are able to see a regular physician and specialist via telehealth through at least May 31; normal coinsurance and deductibles apply as if seeing them in their office.

- Nurse Help Line (new through our third-party administrator, ARC)
  - Assistance in deciding when to go to your doctor, urgent care, or the emergency room
  - Accessing your symptom to determine appropriate level of care
  - Finding network doctors and help with preparation for appointment
Cost: $0
Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 855-983-2583
Access important plan information 24/7 at www.arcvs.com

- COVID-19
  - If a covered individual receives a confirmed COVID-19 test, we have added the treatment associated for COVID-19 at $0 cost to member

As well, Human Resources is working with colleagues in other offices to understand the Payroll Protection Program to see what benefits Centre can claim through this program. Conversations will continue over the next several weeks to make a determination about summer programs and student summer employment opportunities.

Other Business

- With all spring events cancelled, the alumni and family engagement staff are working on virtual events with John and Susie Roush, as part of their so-called “farewell tour.”
- To date, alumni, parents, friends, faculty, and staff have contributed over $5,000 to the COVID-19 Relief Fund to assist students with financial hardships related to the need to leave campus and transition to online learning or for unanticipated costs for the College with ensuring that all students have access to online learning.